

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraphs [0031] and [0032] of the specification with the following amended paragraphs:

The injection piston 70 includes a central bore 72 which allows the valve pin 58 to slide through the injection piston 70 into the open, partially open and closed positions that have been previously described. The injection piston 70 includes an outer surface 76, which selectively blocks the communication between the first manifold channel 14 and the injection channel 80. The clearance [[18]] 81 between the channel 14 and the channel 80 is defined by the position of the injection piston 70. The metered melt chamber 78 has a constant volume which is defined by the amount of melt located in the channels 52, 28 and 42 when the injection piston 70 closes the communication between channel 80 and channel 14.

The injection piston 70 is movable from a retracted position, which is shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, to an extended position, which is shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. In the retracted position, melt flows from the first manifold channel 14 into the injection channel 80 via clearance [[18]] 81. In the extended position, communication between the first manifold channel 14 and the injection channel 80 is blocked and the melt chamber 78 (shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5) is formed.